

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

---

In the Matter of Q.M.E.J., Minor.

---

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TERRI LYNN JOPLIN,

Respondent-Appellant.

---

UNPUBLISHED

May 22, 2003

No. 244690

Washtenaw Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 00-024930-NA

Before: Whitbeck, C.J., and White and Donofrio, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right from the trial court's order terminating her parental rights to the minor child under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j). We affirm. This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Respondent had a long-standing addiction to drugs and alcohol. Respondent abused cocaine during her pregnancy and the minor child was born with cocaine in her system. Respondent participated in four treatment programs, and two others several years earlier, yet she continued to abuse cocaine. Further, respondent's participation in NA/AA and compliance with drug screens was sporadic. The treatment centers noted that respondent minimized the significance of her addiction. Based upon this evidence, we cannot conclude that the trial court erred.

Respondent also asserts that termination was clearly not in the child's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). We disagree. While there was evidence that there existed a bond between parent and child, the potential benefits derived from this bond were outweighed by the risks associated with reunification. We also reject respondent's argument that termination of her parental rights violated the public policy of this state. Once there is clear and convincing evidence that at least one statutory ground for termination exists, as is the case here, a respondent's liberty interest no longer includes the right to custody and control of her child, and a court must terminate parental rights

unless to do so is clearly not in the child's best interests. *Trejo, supra* at 354. Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent's parental rights to her child.

Affirmed.

/s/ William C. Whitbeck

/s/ Helene N. White

/s/ Pat M. Donofrio